

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of making a nonwoven fabric having a sodium ion count less than 45 ppm comprising steps of:

- a. providing a first layer comprising staple length synthetic polymeric fibers;
 - b. providing a second layer comprising natural cellulosic fibers, wherein said natural cellulosic fibers are selected from the group consisting of wood pulp, cotton, rayon, and combinations thereof;
 - c. juxtaposing the second layer upon the first layer; and
 - d. applying a hydraulic energy to said juxtaposed layers through a plurality of hydraulic manifolds to form a hydroentangled nonwoven fabric;
 - e. acid washing comprising applying an acid wash to said hydroentangled nonwoven fabric, wherein said acid wash comprises acetic acid and de-ionized water, providing an acid-washed nonwoven fabric;
 - f. rinsing said acid-washed nonwoven fabric, providing a rinsed nonwoven fabric; and
 - g. drying said rinsed nonwoven fabric,
- wherein said acid washing, rinsing, and drying steps are performed sequentially without intervening steps.

2. (previously presented): A method of making a nonwoven fabric having a sodium ion count less than 45 ppm as in claim 1, wherein said polymeric fibers are selected from the group consisting of thermoset and thermoplastic fibers.

3. (previously presented): A method of making a nonwoven fabric having a sodium ion count less than 45 ppm as in claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyamides, polyesters, polyolefins, and combinations thereof.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended): A nonwoven fabric wipe having a sodium ion particle count less than 45 ppm wherein said wipe is comprised of hydroentangled synthetic fiber and wood pulp ~~and subsequently exposed to an acetic acid washing, and de-ionized water wash rinsing, and drying~~ sequentially without intervening steps, and said nonwoven fabric wipe being suitable for household, medical, industrial, and electronic applications.

7. (currently amended): A method of making a nonwoven fabric having a sodium ion count of less than 25 ppm comprising steps of:

- a. providing a first layer comprising staple length synthetic polymeric fibers;
- b. providing a second layer comprising natural cellulosic fibers;
- c. juxtaposing the second layer upon the first layer; and
- d. applying a hydraulic energy to said juxtaposed layers through a plurality of hydraulic manifolds to form a hydroentangled nonwoven fabric;
- e. acid washing comprising applying an acid wash to said hydroentangled nonwoven fabric, wherein said acid wash comprises acetic acid and de-ionized water, including pulling said acid wash through said nonwoven fabric by vacuum, providing an acid-washed nonwoven fabric;
- f. rinsing said acid-washed nonwoven fabric, providing a rinsed nonwoven fabric;
and
- g. drying said rinsed nonwoven fabric,
wherein said acid washing, rinsing, and drying steps are performed sequentially without intervening steps.

8. (previously presented): A method of making a nonwoven fabric having a sodium ion count less than 25 ppm as in claim 7, wherein said polymeric fibers are selected from the group consisting of thermoset and thermoplastic fibers.

9. (previously presented): A method of making a nonwoven fabric having a sodium ion count less than 25 ppm as in claim 8, wherein said thermoplastic fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyamides, polyesters, polyolefins, and combinations thereof.

10. (previously presented): A method of making a nonwoven fabric having a sodium ion count less than 25 ppm as in claim 7, wherein said natural cellulosic fibers are selected from the group consisting of wood pulp, cotton, rayon, and combinations thereof.

11. (currently amended): A nonwoven fabric wipe having a sodium ion particle count of less than 25 ppm wherein said wipe comprises hydroentangled synthetic fiber and wood pulp ~~and is subsequently exposed to an acetic acid washing, and de-ionized water wash rinsing, and drying sequentially without intervening steps, and~~ said nonwoven fabric wipe being suitable for household, medical, industrial, and electronic applications.

12. (previously presented): A method of making a nonwoven fabric having a sodium ion count less than 45 ppm as in claim 1, wherein said step of applying an acid wash is a single wash step and said rinsing step is a single rinse step.

13. (canceled)

14. (new): A method of making a nonwoven fabric having a sodium ion count less than 45 ppm as in claim 1, consisting of steps a), b), c), d), e), f) and g).

15. (new): A method of making a nonwoven fabric having a sodium ion count less than 45 ppm as in claim 1, wherein said drying step includes an initial dewatering of the rinsed nonwoven fabric comprising passing the rinsed nonwoven fabric over a dewatering slot.

16. (new): A method of making a nonwoven fabric having a sodium ion count less than 25 ppm as in claim 7, consisting of steps a), b), c), d), e), f), and g).

17. (new): A method of making a nonwoven fabric having a sodium ion count less than 45 ppm as in claim 7, wherein said drying step includes an initial dewatering of the rinsed nonwoven fabric comprising passing the rinsed nonwoven fabric over a dewatering slot.